



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

of the Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers,
Lands Building, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth

28 APRIL 2026

**PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER**

ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Lands Building,
25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth
TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026 at 6PM

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PRESENT: Cr Russell Webb (Mayor), Cr Jeff Budd, Cr Matt Sharpham, Cr Steve Mears, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Brendon North, Cr Charles Impey and Cr Ryan Brooke.

IN ATTENDANCE: The General Manager, Acting Director Liveable Communities, Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences, Director Regional Services, Director Water and Waste, Chief Financial Officer and Acting Executive Manager Strategy and Performance.

1 **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An apology was announced as having been received from Cr Marc Sutherland who is unable to attend the Meeting due to being on leave.

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Mears

That the apology be accepted and Cr Marc Sutherland be granted leave of absence from the Meeting.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

90/26 RESOLVED

2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Mears

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 April 2026, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

91/26 RESOLVED

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

5 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

6 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Nil

7 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

7.1 PROPOSED DUNGOWAN PUMPED HYDRO PROJECT - REQUEST TO ACCESS DATA/INFORMATION

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

MOTION

Moved Cr Rodda/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report "Proposed Dungowan Pumped Hydro Project - Request to Access Data/Information", Council provide the requested information, for a fee of \$10,000, provided Council and EDF agree to collaborate on data sharing so that work being undertaken by Council (Dungowan Dam) and EDF (proposed lower storage) is consistent.

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Budd

That in relation to the report "Proposed Dungowan Pumped Hydro Project - Request to Access Data/Information", Council provide the requested information, free of charge, provided Council and EDF agree to collaborate on data sharing so that work being undertaken by Council (Dungowan Dam) and EDF (proposed lower storage) is consistent.

AMENDMENT LAPSED THROUGH WANT OF A SECONDER

THE ORIGINAL MOTION STANDS

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Charles Impey
3. Cr Stephen Mears
4. Cr Mark Rodda
5. Cr Matthew Sharpham

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Jeffrey Budd
2. Cr Brendon North
3. Cr Russell Webb

92/26 RESOLVED

7.2 IPART'S DRAFT DETERMINATION OF WATER NSW'S BULK WATER TO AND INCLUDING THE 2028-2029 FINANCIAL YEAR

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste
Reference: Item 8.2 to Ordinary Council 26 November 2024 - Minute No 322/24
Item 8.2 to Ordinary Council 30 June 2025 - Minute No

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr North

That in relation to the report "IPART's Determination of Water NSW's and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation's Bulk Water Charges, Council receive and note the report and agree to lodge a submission to IPART which includes the general points contained in the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 3. Cr Charles Impey 4. Cr Stephen Mears 5. Cr Brendon North 6. Cr Mark Rodda 7. Cr Matthew Sharpham 8. Cr Russell Webb	Nil

93/26 **RESOLVED**

7.3 ANNUAL DAMS SAFETY STANDARDS REPORT

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations
Reference: Item 8.4 to Ordinary Council 24 May 2022 - Minute No 142/22
Item 8.4 to Ordinary Council 8 August 2023 - Minute No 191/23
Item 8.6 to Ordinary Council 8 August 2023 - Minute No 193/23

MOTION

Moved Cr Impey/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report "Annual Dams Safety Standards Report", Council receive and note the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke 2. Cr Jeffrey Budd 3. Cr Charles Impey 4. Cr Stephen Mears 5. Cr Brendon North 6. Cr Mark Rodda	Nil

7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

94/26 RESOLVED

7.4 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST E068-2026 - INDUSTRIAL HARD PLASTICS PROJECT FUNDING AND PROJECT UPDATE

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Doug Hughes, Manager - Waste & Resource Recovery
Reference: Item 12.1 to Ordinary Council 11 February 2025 - Minute No 14/25
Item 12.2 to Ordinary Council 26 August 2025 - Minute No 212/25
Item 12.12 to Ordinary Council 16 December 2025 - Minute No 335/25

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report “Expression of Interest E068-2026 - Industrial Hard Plastics Project Funding and Project Update”, Council:

- (i) withdraw from the NSW EPA Recycling Modernisation Fund – Plastics Technology Stream (reference #2024/RMPT/0004);
- (ii) return all received funding and provide acquittal information for any funds spent for acquittal consideration;
- (iii) provide funding for expenditure already incurred and not covered by the EPA trust from the Waste Reserve; and
- (iv) continue negotiations with Expression of Interest (EOI) respondents regarding the use of existing facilities at Forest Road Waste Management Facility.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

95/26 RESOLVED

7.5 MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN REVIEW

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report “Murray Darling Basin Plan Review”, Council receive and note the report and agree to submit the submission, as attached to this report, to the

Murray Darling Basin Authority.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

96/26 RESOLVED

7.6 DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

Reference: Item 8.2 to Ordinary Council 10 October 2023 - Minute No 257/23

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr North

That in relation to the report “Drought Management Plan Implementation”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the report; and
- (ii) request the Director Water and Waste provide further reports to Council, as required, to provide updates on the status of Council’s water supplies.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

97/26 RESOLVED

8 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

8.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MARCH 2026

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Hannah Allwood, Accountant

MOTION

Moved Cr Mears/Cr Brooke

That in relation to the report “Council Investments March 2026”, Council receive and

note the report.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

98/26 RESOLVED

9 COMMUNITY SERVICES

9.1 DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY TAMWORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA PROGRAM - COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Lisa Rennie, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - Program Ambassador

Reference: Item 5.1 to Ordinary Council 8 November 2022 - Minute No 320/22
Item 10.1 to Ordinary Council 11 June 2024 - Minute No 135/24

MOTION

Moved Cr North/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Tamworth Local Government Area Program - Council's Financial Contribution", Council:

- (i) continue to provide an annual financial contribution of \$200,000 from the General Fund to part fund the program across future financial years;
- (ii) note that there is currently no financial capacity to fund the continued support of this program without finding savings to offset the increased expenditure;
- (iii) continue to promote the program across the Tamworth Local Government Area and actively pursue corporate and community sponsorship/ donations; and
- (iv) continue to lobby (when possible) the State Government for funding to assist with the continued delivery of the program.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

99/26 RESOLVED

9.2 TAMWORTH REGION ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8 JANUARY 2026

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES
AUTHOR: Bridget Guthrie, Director Art Gallery and Museums

MOTION

Moved Cr Brooke/Cr Mears

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 8 January 2026”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the minutes; and
- (ii) endorse the establishment of a Mural Artist Registry and Mural Location Register.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

100/26 RESOLVED

10 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

At 6.49pm, the Chairperson offered the opportunity to members of the public to make representations as to whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

The General Manager advised the Chairperson that no written public submissions or representations had been received as to whether or not part of the Meeting should be closed to the public. The Chairperson asked any members of the Council whether any part of the Council Meeting should not be considered in Closed Council.

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Impey

That the confidential reports as listed be considered in a Meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

Nil

101/26 RESOLVED

10.1 OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE LICENCE - TAMWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Haley Fenn, Coordinator Community Safety & Wellbeing

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)i of the Local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

10.2 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF SEWERAGE EASEMENT OVER LOT 2 DP 844363 AT 707C MANILLA ROAD TAMWORTH

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: James McLoughney, Senior Projects and Infrastructure Engineer

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

11 CLOSED COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1 OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE LICENCE - TAMWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Haley Fenn, Coordinator Community Safety & Wellbeing

MOTION

Moved Cr Sharpham/Cr Budd

That in relation to the report "Outside of School Hours Care Licence - Tamworth Public School", Council:

- (i) endorse the cessation of Council operated Outside School Hours Care service located on site at Tamworth Public School;
- (ii) notes that implementation of a transition plan to support children, families and staff; and
- (iii) direct the reallocation of resources dedicated to East Year Round Care operations toward strengthening South Year Round Care service and expanding access in currently underserved areas.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **FOR**
THE DECISION

1. Cr Ryan Brooke
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd
3. Cr Charles Impey
4. Cr Stephen Mears
5. Cr Brendon North
6. Cr Mark Rodda
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham
8. Cr Russell Webb

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED **AGAINST**
THE DECISION

Nil

102/26 RESOLVED

11.2 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF SEWERAGE EASEMENT OVER LOT 2 DP 844363 AT 707C MANILLA ROAD TAMWORTH

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: James McLoughney, Senior Projects and Infrastructure Engineer

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

MOTION

Moved Cr Budd/Cr Impey

That in relation to the report “Proposed Acquisition Of Sewerage Easement Over Lot 2 DP 844363 at 707C Manilla Road Tamworth”, Council:

- (i) agree to pay the owner of Lot 2 in DP844363 the amount as detailed in the report for the acquisition of a sewerage easement and other costs as required;
- (ii) provide funds from the Wastewater Reserve to fund the acquisition and other payments; and
- (iii) authorise the affixing of the Seal of Council to the deed of agreement and any associated documentation required to give effect to Council’s resolution

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke	Nil
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd	
3. Cr Charles Impey	
4. Cr Stephen Mears	
5. Cr Brendon North	
6. Cr Mark Rodda	
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham	
8. Cr Russell Webb	

103/26 RESOLVED

12 RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

MOTION

Moved Cr Rodda/Cr Sharpham

That Council move into Open Council.

COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED FOR THE DECISION	COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE DECISION
1. Cr Ryan Brooke	Nil
2. Cr Jeffrey Budd	
3. Cr Charles Impey	
4. Cr Stephen Mears	
5. Cr Brendon North	
6. Cr Mark Rodda	
7. Cr Matthew Sharpham	
8. Cr Russell Webb	

104/26 RESOLVED

At 6.53pm the meeting moved back into Open Council.

In accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice, Section 14.17, the Chairperson provided a summary of the resolutions passed in Closed Council.

Closure: There being no further business the Ordinary Meeting of Council concluded at 6.54pm

Cr Russell Webb, Chairperson

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

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Minutes